

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL AVIATION SYSTEM PLAN POLICY COMMITTEE

Maricopa Association of Governments Office
302 North 1st Avenue, Ste. 200, Saguaro Room
Phoenix, Arizona

November 28, 2001

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Chair, Glendale
Councilmember Donna Wallace, Chandler
*Councilmember Dave Crozier, Gilbert
Councilmember Ken Porter
Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa
Councilmember George Zraket, Scottsdale
*Mayor Joan Shafer, Surprise
Councilmember Hugh Hallman for Mayor Neil
Giuliano, Tempe

Councilmember Lon McDermott, Wickenburg
*Supervisor Don Stapley, Maricopa County
Councilmember David Siebert for
Councilmember Peggy Bilsten, City of
Phoenix
Gary Adams, Arizona Department of
Transportation
Richard Dykas, Federal Aviation Administration
Lt. Colonel Ken Klesner, Arizona Air National
Guard
Terry Hansen, Luke Air Force Base

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Greg Chenoweth, Chandler
Kelly McMullen, McDOT
David Krietor, Phoenix
Sue Palmeri, Phoenix
Sharon Wood, Phoenix
Peggy Carpenter, Scottsdale
Scott Gray, Scottsdale

Oddvar Tveit, Tempe
Shannon Wilhelmenson, Tempe
Pam Keidel, Wilbur Smith
Linda Meronek, Wilbur Smith
George Williams, Consultant
Eric Anderson, MAG
Harry Wolfe, MAG

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:50 a.m. by Chairman Elaine Scruggs

2. Review of Minutes of October 15, 2001

It was moved by Mayor Keno Hawker, seconded by Councilmember Hugh Hallman and unanimously recommended to approve the meeting minutes of October 15, 2001.

3. Review of MAG RASP Update Draft Working Paper 1, Inventory

Harry Wolfe said that at the October 15, 2001, meeting of the MAG RASP Policy Committee it was requested that the comment period for Working Paper #1, Inventory be extended to provide additional time to review the material and provide input. He reported that the input received to date from Phoenix, Mesa, Williams Gateway Airport, Scottsdale, Wickenburg, ADOT and Luke Air Force Base was included in Attachment One. He requested acceptance of the working paper as revised based on the comments received.

Mayor Scruggs asked how the comments would be incorporated. Harry Wolfe responded that the comments would be incorporated into the working paper which would then become a draft chapter in the final report.

It was moved by Mayor Keno Hawker, seconded by Councilmember David Siebert and unanimously recommended to accept Working Paper #1 Inventory with the comments received.

3. Review of MAG RASP Update Draft Working Paper 2, Aviation Forecasts

Harry Wolfe asked Pam Keidel, Project Manager for Wilbur Smith Associates staff to summarize the process used to prepare the forecasts. Ms. Keidel noted that the consultant prepared forecasts as noted in their scope of work for the project. She mentioned that the consultants had reviewed the methodology to be used at a meeting on July 10, 2001 and then discussed the methodology in further detail at the October 15, 2001 meeting. Ms. Keidel also reported that she had responded to the comments received on the forecasts in Attachment Two.

Harry Wolfe added that changes were made to the forecasts for Williams Gateway Airport, Scottsdale Airport, and Luke Air Force Base.

Councilmember Hugh Hallman recommended approval of Working Paper #2, Forecasts with the changes noted, and requested that MAG staff meet with Tempe staff and consultants to discuss the methodologies that were used and the conclusions that were reached. Councilmember Hallman specifically raised issues regarding the relationship between growth in air freight and the increase in the number of aircraft operations attributable to freight; the relationship between enplanements and operations at Sky Harbor; and the assumptions regarding operations per based aircraft related to general aviation aircraft. Dave Siebert seconded the motion made by Councilmember Hallman and requested that Phoenix participate in any such meetings to review the forecasts.

Harry Wolfe asked for clarification on the intent of discussions with the consultant noting that the demand/capacity analysis to follow would be based upon the forecasts approved. Councilmember Hallman stated that he wanted to ensure the questions raised by Tempe's consultants were discussed.

Mayor Elaine Scruggs stated that any issues regarding the forecasts that arose during such discussions would have to be brought back to the MAG RASP Policy Committee.

Councilmember Hallman indicated that Committee members should have 30 days prior to a committee meeting to review working papers. Harry Wolfe responded that that was his understanding based on

comments made at the last meeting. Mr. Wolfe pointed out that since people wanted time to examine each others comments, it would require approximately six weeks between the time a working paper was sent out and that we met to discuss that working paper.

Mayor Keno Hawker asked how changes in the next few years that conflicted with the forecasts would effect the projects recommended in the MAG RASP Update. Pam Keidel responded that the RASP alone cannot be used to substantiate the funding of a project. She indicated that the FAA will examine the most recent information and forecasts and will consider the costs and benefits of the project compared with other projects submitted.

Gary Adams pointed out that Regional System Plans help to provide a general consensus on the policy and direction a region wants to take with regard to air transportation.

The motion to approve the MAG RASP Update, Working Paper 2, Forecasts and that MAG staff confer with the Tempe consultants regarding the forecast methodology, along with staff from Tempe and Phoenix, was unanimously approved.

4. Next Steps in MAG RASP Update

Pam Keidel explained that the next step in the MAG RASP Update would be to prepare a demand/capacity analysis that would examine both the operational capacity of the airports in the region and the role of each airport in the region. Given the length of time needed to review each MAG RASP Working Paper, Harry Wolfe estimated that the next meeting of the MAG RASP Policy Committee would take place sometime in February of 2002.

Terry Hansen expressed concern about having an adequate airspace review as a part of the MAG RASP Update. He emphasized the importance of considering the larger airspace picture and understanding the airspace consequences that RASP recommendations would have on Luke's ability to perform its mission. Mr. Hansen stated that the loss of airspace has an impact on military operations. He pointed out that increases in civilian air traffic may result in delays and/or restrictions to military operations. He added that Luke is fully utilizing its airspace and that there isn't any more airspace available.

Pam Keidel said that airspace would be evaluated thoroughly in the alternatives Phase of the MAG RASP Update, but that the consultant would not be running a computer simulation model because that was beyond the scope of the study. Harry Wolfe added that at the airspace panel discussion held in October at Sky Harbor the issue of airspace analysis in system plans was raised; and that it was noted that system plans to a general airspace review to determine whether projects have a fatal flaw; and that once the alternatives are narrowed down and one is recommended that a more detailed airspace simulation can be undertaken. He also commented that such a simulation could be undertaken by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Richard Dykas of the Federal Aviation Administration stated that Regional System plans do not need to do computer simulations.

Mayor Hawker asked if Northwest 2000 would be considered in the MAG RASP Update. Pam Keidel said that she understood that it was her understanding that it scheduled to be implemented in February

2002 and that consultants would be considering it.

Terry Hansen expressed concern about assuming that Northwest 2000 would be implemented. He indicated that there may be delays in the implementation schedule.

Harry Wolfe emphasized that the MAG RASP would consider the changes that Northwest 2000 would bring about when it was implemented. He also said that a major benefit of a regional aviation system plan is that it examines a broad range of alternatives for meeting the future air transportation needs of the region's citizens. He said that these alternatives could include such technological improvements in air traffic control, the expansion of existing airports and the construction of new facilities. Mr. Wolfe also mentioned that new air traffic control technology might increase airport capacity without the need for more infrastructure.

Mayor Keno Hawker asked if the MAG RASP Update should be delayed until the Northwest 2000 Plan was completed. Harry Wolfe said that such a delay should not be necessary and that the study can proceed.

Councilmember Hugh Hallman expressed concern about the adequacy of airspace analysis, and the importance of ensuring that airport improvements do not interfere with the mission of Luke Air Force Base.

Mayor Scruggs stated that Glendale had contracted with Alan McGuire to conduct a study that looked at the importance of the military throughout the State of Arizona. She noted that the impact of the military on the the entire state was significant and that it touched everyone. She expressed concern about actions that negatively impact the mission of Luke, can impact the entire state military airport system since they all use the Luke Ranges.

Mayor Elaine Scruggs indicated that she believed it would be helpful if members of the MAG RASP Policy Committee could visit Luke Air Force Base to obtain a better understanding of the role of the Base and its contributions to the region's economy. She pointed out that the continued existence of the Luke Ranges is essential to all the military bases in the State. She suggested that a visit be organized sometime in January 2002. Councilmember Hallman and Councilmember Porter expressed support for the visit.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.